

Connecting the Dots

Teen Violence, ACEs and Substance Use

June 2022

Teen Violence and Opioids

One-third of U.S. teenagers have experienced some sort of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from their partner. A recent study found a connection between the misuse of prescription drugs and teen dating violence (Clayton, 2018). It was reported that the use of nonmedical prescription drugs was positively related to coexisting physical and sexual abuse and only sexual abuse in males, compared to coexisting physical and sexual abuse and only physical abuse in females. Drugs can change a person's behavior and therefore have a negative impact on personal and romantic relationships. Abusive partners also tend to blame their behaviors on the drugs or alcohol.

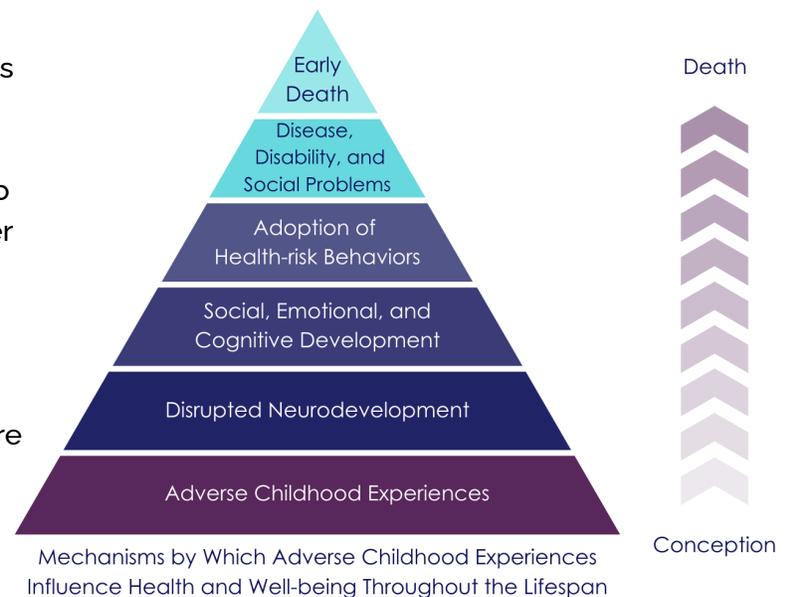


Fast Facts

- 2.96% of adolescents in Indiana ages 12-17 reported past year misuse of prescription pain relievers in 2020.
- Teenagers in Indiana are 2.1% more likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American teen.
- In 2021, 17.4% of children in Indiana (0-17) experienced 1 or more ACE.
- 32% of children in Indiana living at or below 99% of the federal poverty line have experienced two or more ACEs.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are defined as any traumatic experience that occurred in a person's life before the age of 18 that the person remembers as an adult (ACEs, 2018). ACEs include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional neglect, substance misuse within the household and partner violence. Those who experienced ACEs were 40% more likely to have anger control issues and 80% more likely to engage in inter-partner violence. Sexual risk behaviors and consequences, including promiscuity, sexually transmitted diseases, increased sexual dissatisfaction, early intercourse and both teen and unintended pregnancy, were also associated with ACEs.



Sources:

NSCH 2016 17: Adverse childhood experiences, Nationwide vs. Indiana, Two or more adverse childhood experiences x Household income level (childhealthdata.org)

Fast Facts: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences | Violence Prevention | Injury Center | CDC

Teenage Drug Use Statistics [2022]: Data & Trends on Abuse (drugabusestatistics.org)

